

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[Abstract]

[Object] Generally, it is not easy to judge automatically and correctly whether the attribute of an image is the one belonging to logos and illustrations or the one belonging to natural pictures. Due to incorrect judgment, sometimes, unsuitable interpolation execution has occurred.

[Constitution] Pixels interpolated by the first interpolation processing and pixels interpolated by the second interpolation processing are blended, based on a predetermined evaluation function, and placed on a source image. Because the evaluation function depends on the attribute of the image, a blending ratio between the pixels interpolated separately in two modes of interpolation can be determined, according to the image attribute, with high percentages assigned to more suitable interpolation processing. The merit of each mode of interpolation processing becomes more noticeable, whereas the demerit of each becomes mild. Consequently, the invention can prevent an error in selecting an interpolation method, based on the appraised attribute of the image for which interpolation is executed.

[Selected Drawing] Fig. 22